

Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2021

The Scoop on CEUs

With restrictions across the state on safeguards related to the pandemic, the Texas Department of Agriculture has extended the exemption of agriculture Continuing Education Unit (CEU) requirements. Here is some important information for license holders:

COMMERCIAL, NON-COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL POLITICAL APPLICATORS

For licenses expiring in 2021 ONLY: TDA will exempt commercial, non-commercial and non-commercial political applicators who have taken online or correspondence courses within the last year. The TDA Rule 7.24 (t) (2) does not allow for online or correspondence courses to be taken 2 years consecutively. In light of the unusual circumstances due to Covid 19 (coronavirus), the TDA will allow online or correspondence courses to be taken in consecutive years. This exemption will be for the current 2021 licensing period. Commercial, non-commercial and non-commercial political pesticide applicators are required to obtain 5 CEUs per licensing period.

PRIVATE APPLICATORS

For licenses expiring in 2021 ONLY: The TDA will also exempt private applicators from the TDA Rule 7.24 (v) (5). This rule does not allow a private applicator to acquire more than 10 CEUs through correspondence courses. During this quarantine time frame, private applicators will be allowed to acquire ALL of their CEUs through correspondence courses (online). Private applicators are required to obtain 15 CEUs per 5-year licensing period.

Once the restrictions have been lifted and courses are scheduled again, applicators will be required to obtain their required CEUs for their respective license classification for each licensing period. By allowing a CEU exemption, this will allow the applicators to maintain their ability to perform pesticide applications for pests, weeds, insects etc., without disrupting daily business functions. Applicators are encouraged to complete online courses even if online courses were completed the previous licensing period.

If your license is up for renewal, you should receive a renewal notice from TDA about a month prior. If you don't receive a notice you can always call our office and let us know.

Mark Your Calendar

February 15th - Extension office closed in observance of President's Day

Jan. 25th - February 26th - Urban Soil Testing Campaign

February Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Tip

Dr. Jason Banta, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Overton

Estrus synchronization is used by some cattle producers to facilitate artificial insemination, embryo transfer, and natural breeding. Various products including GnRH, prostaglandin, or analogues of these hormones are used in synchronization protocols. It is critical to read the label for each product to make sure it is stored and administered according to label directions. Products that are used for the same purpose vary in storage guidelines. Some should be stored at room temperature and others in a refrigerator. Use a refrigerator thermometer to monitor the refrigerator temperature. Unless the label states otherwise, these products should be administered in the neck according to BQA best management practices.

Urban Soil Campaign

Homeowners and gardeners in the Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington County area are encouraged to take part in the Urban, Turf, and Garden Soil Testing Campaign from January 25th, thru February 26th. Soil samples submitted during this time frame will be \$8.00 for a routine analysis and \$15.00 for a routine analysis including micro-nutrients. Residents of Colorado County may bring their samples to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office located at 316 Spring Street in Columbus. Soil sample bags and forms are available at the office.

TexasSpeaks

TexasSpeaks is being conducted in Colorado County and across the State of Texas to allow the citizens of Texas to provide their input on the assets and issues in their communities. The local branch of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has a rich history of providing educational programs that address the most critical issues in the county, and invites your participation in the TexasSpeaks process.

The Extension Service highly values the opinions shared through the TexasSpeaks community assessment. The expectation is that the assessment will take about 10 minutes.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a statewide network of professional educators, trained volunteers, and county offices. It reaches into every Texas county to address local priority needs and to extend the latest research to the people of Texas. Some of the major efforts are in mitigating drought impacts; conserving water use in homes, landscapes, and production agriculture; improving emergency management; enhancing food security; and protecting human health through education about diet, exercise, and disease prevention and management.

You can provide your input by going to the following tx.ag/texasspeaks or by scanning the QR code below.



Sponsored by: Multi-County Ag Committee

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



Colorado County Homeowner Soil Testing Campaign

This campaign is limited to annuals, flowers, gardens,
turfgrass, trees and woody ornamentals.

January 25 – February 26, 2021

Soil sample bags, **CAMPAIGN ONLY SUBMISSION FORMS**,
and directions for sampling are available at the Colorado County Extension Office.

All soil sample bags, submission forms, and payments must be returned to the **Colorado
County Extension Office by 5:00pm on February 26, 2021**

Routine Analysis - \$8.00 per sample

For Routine + Micronutrients - \$15.00 per sample

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Please make checks payable to: MCAF

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 277-6212 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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colorado.agrilife.org

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 732-2082 ten (10) days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.